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ABSTRACT

This document briefly outlines recent activities of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in the following Strategic Action Areas: (1) National and International Recognition and Advocacy for Community Colleges; (2) Learning and Accountability; (3) Leadership Development; (4) Economic and Workforce Development; (5) Connectedness Across AACC Membership; and (6) International and Intercultural Education. Highlights from Strategic Action Area 1 include the following: (1) AACC has secured reintroduction of legislation in the House of Representatives that would expand the Hope Scholarship tax credit to significantly improve its benefit for community college and needy students; (2) AACC is working with a number of Senate offices in an effort to ensure that legislation to extend the nation's welfare law represents an expansion of opportunities for training, rather than adding more limitations, as is the case with the House-backed legislation that AACC opposed; and (3) AACC has drafted legislation with the Association of Schools of the Allied Health Professions to provide scholarships, loans, and other opportunities to allied health students and educational programs. Highlights from Strategic Area 2 include the announcement of a new book from a conference on cybersecurity education and the publication of a research brief on community college health. (NB)

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President's Report to the Board of Directors, April 2003

George Boggs
American Association of Community Colleges

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President's Report to the Board of Directors
April 2003

Strategic Action Area I: National and International Recognition and Advocacy for Community Colleges

1. AACC has been deeply involved in the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). As of this writing, reauthorization legislation (H.R. 1261) is about to be marked up in the House Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness. The legislation is modeled largely after that presented by President Bush. We are pleased by a number of features in the bill, but we are working to improve others, specifically in the area of the financing of one-stop career centers and in allowing community colleges to receive funding to develop capacity. Senate action on similar legislation has not yet been scheduled.

2. AACC has continued to work to advance its position on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). The Association submitted a detailed position statement to the Department of Education on February 28. This statement expanded upon a document submitted late last year to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. AACC's position was presented in abbreviated form by Wayne Giles, Chancellor of the Metropolitan Community Colleges, at a hearing held in Kansas City on March 7. Advocacy on the HEA reauthorization continues. On a related topic, AACC has responded vigorously to oppose Chairman Buck McKeon's proposal to limit increases in college tuition by threatening to remove eligibility for federal financial aid from institutions that raise tuition by more than twice the CPI for two years.

3. AACC has continued to delineate the many shortcomings of the Administration's early position on the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. We have initiated an education process on Capitol Hill and believe that the proposal does not appear to have gained much support. AACC remains willing to work with the Administration to improve the plan. Unless significant changes are made in its provisions and support levels, we cannot recommend support.

4. AACC has secured reintroduction in the House of Representatives of legislation that would expand the Hope Scholarship tax credit to significantly improve its benefit for community college students and needy students in general. As in the 107th Congress, the legislation is championed by Representatives Dave Camp (R-MI) and Jim McGovern (D-MA). The legislation, H.R. 442, has quickly garnered 67 co-sponsors, which is extremely encouraging. However, in order for the legislation to advance, an appropriate tax bill to which it can be attached must be identified.

5. AACC is working with a number of Senate offices in an effort to ensure that legislation to extend the nation's welfare law represents an expansion of current opportunities for training, rather than adding more limitations, as is the case with House-passed legislation that AACC opposed. There appears to be some support in the Senate for extending from 12 to 24 months the period during which welfare recipients may be engaged in postsecondary education and count as a "work activity."

6. Production and distribution of public service announcements (PSAs) to support the Nursing/Allied Health Initiative were completed in January. Both 30-second and 60-second television spots and a 30-second radio spot in both English and Spanish were distributed with an AACC tag to 11 major media markets around the country. In addition, copies of the spots with a blank tag to allow the participating colleges to customize a "call for action" with their own contact information were distributed to the 386 colleges that contributed to the Nursing/Allied Health Initiative. Member colleges that did not contribute to the Initiative have been allowed to purchase the PSAs for use in their local media markets for a modest fee to cover duplication and

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mailing costs. The promotional package containing the PSAs also contains a boilerplate news release, a fact sheet about AD Nursing programs, and suggestions for ways to best use the materials. The PSAs "star" actual AD nursing graduates from D.C.-area community colleges. The AACC Web site now features versions of the PSAs that can be "streamed" for viewing via the Internet.

7. AACC was forced to cancel the Career Expo that was to have taken place in conjunction with the April Convention. Hiring freezes at the colleges, budget constraints, and the timing of the convention resulted in much lower participation than would have made the event financially viable. The Association also sought to minimize incursion of further cost to stage the event. AACC has offered colleges previously signed up to participate in the fair a low-cost listing on the AACC Web site in lieu of the actual event.

8. The AACC Communications Office has completed a new marketing "portfolio" that, for the first time, provides comprehensive information about AACC programs, services, and initiatives. (Copies will be available at the board meeting.)

9. In February, AACC sent out an initial survey to all colleges with nursing or allied health programs. The goal of this survey was to begin collecting benchmark data on program size, student waiting lists, and challenges to enlarging these programs. The survey also requested information about key contacts in both nursing and allied health programs for future communication. AACC received over 500 responses to the survey.

10. AACC's Working Connections program has been recognized as a Laureate in the Computerworld Honors Program. Working Connections will be described in Computerworld's prestigious annual journal, The Laureate, to be issued in June. Bill Gates nominated AACC for the award.

11. AACC has posted detailed information on its Web site announcing Veteran's Health Administration field hearings on the recruitment and retention of nurses within the Veteran's Health Administration system and has worked with Delgado Community College in New Orleans, LA, to draft testimony for the first hearing scheduled to occur in New Orleans on April 3, 2003. (An AACC college will testify at each of the field hearings.)

12. AACC has met with congressional staff to garner support from members of Congress in its request to the Heath Resources Service Administration (HRSA) for grant-writing workshops and technical assistance for community colleges in each of the 10 HRSA field offices. (Community colleges were eligible for over $70 million in Nurse Education Act grants for FY 2003; however, few applied for funding.)

13. At a January meeting with the VHA, AACC continued collaborative efforts with ACCT and the National Organization of Associate Degree Nurses (N-OADN) to improve opportunities in the Veteran's Health Administration (VHA) for registered nurses who have earned the associate degree in nursing. AACC also received pertinent information to support efforts to amend the VHA BSN career-ladder requirement for registered nurses.

14. AACC has held several meetings with the Association of Federal Government Employees (AFGE) to develop a strategy to amend the VHA BSN career-ladder requirement for registered nurses. AFGE has agreed to continue to work with AACC on this issue.

15. AACC has drafted legislation with the Association of Schools of the Allied Health Professions to provide scholarships, loans, and other opportunities to allied health students and educational programs.

16. AACC has endorsed H.R. #934, the Teacher & Nurse Support Act of 2003, to expand teacher loan forgiveness to nurses. Sponsored by Rep. McCarthy, she noted AACC's support in her press release introducing the bill.

Strategic Action Area II: Learning and Accountability

1. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and The Coca-Cola Foundation will again fund the New Century Scholars program. This program, created by AACC in 2001, awards a $2,000 scholarship annually to the top community college student in each of the 50 states, based on scholarship, leadership, and community service. The 50 Scholars will be presented at the AACC Annual Convention on Monday, April 6.

2. AACC is in the process of producing a new research brief based on the CEO compensation survey administered last fall. More detailed tables, broken out by region, enrollment size, and budget will be available on a members-only section of the AACC Web site. An executive summary of the findings will be made available at a Forum session on this topic at the AACC convention.

3. AACC collected state-wide accountability information from 25 state directors. The goal of this survey is to provide a better understanding to federal policy-makers of the extent of accountability reporting that community colleges are already required to perform and of how new legislation or regulation should be cognizant of that. Results of the survey were shared with key staff members in Congress and the Administration.

4. Staff follow-up continues with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) on last October's invitational conference on teacher preparation at the Wingspread Conference Center. A joint publication will feature recommendations to educators, policy-makers, and other leaders on the role that community colleges can play in teacher preparation.

5. AACC and AASCU staffs are moving forward on the Lumina Foundation project, *Access to Baccalaureate Education*. An invitational conference will be held May 14-16 in Washington, D.C., and a project Web site that is accessible through both the AASCU and AACC Web sites has been launched. Other "deliverables" will include a monograph comprising findings and recommendations from the conference, and a "conference in a box" model that can be used to replicate the conference at state or local levels.

6. AACC has entered into an agreement with American Council of Education to be a supporting partner on a new Lumina Foundation grant, geared toward improving academic success for low-income adults. AACC's role will be to provide community college expertise, particularly for developing the institutional surveys and case studies, and to better understand the context in which low-income adults seek educational experiences. AACC will receive around $50,000 over the course of the 3-year grant.

7. A new book, *Protecting Information: The Role of Community Colleges in Cybersecurity Education,* was unveiled at the Workforce Development Institute in February. This is a report of the June 2002 conference on the same topic co-sponsored by AACC and the National Science Foundation. All member colleges have received a complimentary copy, and NSF is making additional copies available to other educators and decision-makers.

8. AACC and NSF staffs are working on plans to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program. Watch for materials at the convention in April and again at the ATE Principal Investigators Conference in October. The convention

edition of the *Community College Times* will also feature a special four-page section spotlighting the NSF connection.

9. A new research brief, *National Study on Community College Health*, by Nan Ottenritter, summarizes findings from surveys conducted by AACC in 1996 and 2000 on health and wellness in community colleges from the perspectives of administration and leadership, curricular and co-curricular programs, health services, and community collaboration. It is available on the Web at http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Content/ContentGroups/Research_Briefs2/Bridges_no_CDC.pd

10. AACC announced the locations of Working Connections IT Faculty Development Institutes via a coordinated press release with Microsoft and the National Workforce Center for Emerging Technologies (NWCET) in March. Working Connections institutions hosting the 2003 Institutes between May and August are Bellevue Community College, WA; Borough of Manhattan Community College, NY; Central Piedmont Community College, NC; Collin County Community College District and Richland College, TX; Daytona Beach Community College, Miami-Dade Community College, Seminole College, and Valencia Community College, FL; Henry Ford Community College, MI; Illinois Community College Board and Lincoln Land Community College, IL; the Kentucky Community and Technical College System; and Northern Virginia Community College. Additional information is available on the AACC, NWCET, and Microsoft Web sites.

11. In March, AACC participated in the inaugural conference of the National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs (NACCTEP) in Phoenix, AZ. The goal of this new association is "to promote the community college in the recruitment, preparation, retention and renewal of diverse pre-K-12 teachers and to advance quality teacher education programs in the community college."

Strategic Action Area III: Leadership Development

1. Applications for the 2003 Future Leaders Institute (FLI) are now being received by AACC. The Kellogg Foundation has provided some funding to be used in coordinating the first FLI, to cover some activities, and for scholarship assistance for the attendees. To receive scholarship assistance, completed application packages must be received by May 9. Scholarship recipients receive $350 each to cover hotel costs.

2. The Presidents Academy 2003 Taming Technology Institute will be held June 19-21, 2003, at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC), Mass. AACC is working with staff from The Community College Foundation and STCC to put together an exciting program. Having a college host this event not only lowers some costs but allows the Institute to feature some of the outstanding programs at member colleges. The program will feature sessions on Using Technology to Form New Revenue Streams, Entrepreneurial Education, Outsourcing Technology, and Cyber Security. This year, at the request of the National Science Foundation, the Institute will incorporate an invitational pre-conference session on leadership in technology education.

3. Two outstanding faculty members will be recognized at the opening session of the AACC Convention as David R. Pierce Faculty Technology Awardees. The competition, in its third year, is sponsored by AACC and Microsoft. Joyce M. Hawkins from Wake Technical Community College, NC, and Susan Gaer from Santa Ana College, CA, will receive a cash award of $5,000. For the first time, two faculty members were recognized with an "Honorable Mention;" Kenneth Ekegren, North Central State College, OH, and Judith Kirkpatrick, Kapi'olani Community College, HI, and will receive a cash award of $1,500. Awardees were featured in a *Community College Times* article and on the AACC Web site.

4. AACC submitted a proposal to the Kellogg Foundation for a national leadership development initiative to meet the challenges and opportunities resulting from the pending leadership gap in community colleges. AACC research publications and the Board document, "Characteristics of an Effective Community College President," provided the context for the proposal. If funded as proposed, the initiative would provide a wide range of activities for recruitment and retention of community college leaders. The Kellogg Foundation Board will address our proposal at its meeting in May.

5. The Community College Press has published *The CEO Contract*, a new book that provides practical guidance to college presidents and boards of trustees. The book includes chapters on contract basics, compensation and benefits, and evaluations. (Copies will be available at the board meeting.)

6. AACC President, George Boggs, has been presenting information about AACC leadership initiatives at leadership workshops around the country, including workshops or institutes for AACC-affiliated councils and at George Mason University in Virginia, Guilford Technical College in North Carolina, the College of Lake County in Illinois, the University of San Diego in California, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the League for Innovation in the Community College ELI, Santa Fe Community College in Florida, Columbia University in New York, Daytona Beach Community College in Florida, Claremont University in California, Parkland College in Illinois, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

7. With support from the National Science Foundation, AACC will host a half-day invitational Leadership Summit on Technological Education in June in conjunction with the Taming Technology Institute in Springfield, MA.

8. The Pew Partnership for Civic Change, based in Charlottesville, has selected AACC to participate in the second year of its Leadership Plenty program. AACC is among 22 national, regional, and local organizations and institutions selected to participate in a "train the trainers" community leadership development program. The idea is that there is "leadership plenty" already existing in most communities that isn't necessarily being used. Pew has developed a 10-module curriculum that help people in communities coalesce around issues of their choosing to make a difference.

Strategic Action Area IV: Economic and Workforce Development

1. The 10th annual AACC Workforce Development Institute (WDI) was held January 29-February 1, 2003, in San Diego, CA. In addition to the traditional focus on exemplary workforce development models, this year's Institute highlighted the impact of demographic changes on community colleges. Particular attention was given to community college efforts to recruit, retain, and transition their own personnel and leadership. Additionally, the Institute targeted programming around Perkins and WIA-related programs and legislation. Despite the negative financial circumstances plaguing states, early efforts to promote Institute attendance appeared to have been very successful. Approximately, 350 presidents, vice presidents, deans and workforce professionals from 32 states attended the 2003 WDI.

2. Planning has begun between the AACC and the Business Relations Group (BRG) in the Department of Labor (DOL) to sponsor Industry Sector Meetings. Based upon high-growth industries' projections, economic development needs, and micro-enterprise efforts, the DOL Employment Training Administration (ETA) is currently focusing its workforce development efforts on the service industry (Health and IT & IT Business-Related), the retail industry, the financial industry, the transportation industry, and the manufacturing industry. Each sector effort will be kicked-off with CEO-level meetings with the Assistant Secretary for ETA. These meetings will be followed by several sector- specific BRG/AACC staff-led meetings with

appropriate human resource administrators to determine present and future education and training needs within the industry sectors. The existing AACC/DOL State Liaison Network will be used to drive results to the state level.

3. AACC staff members have met with the new education administrator in the Office of Science, Department of Energy (DOE), to focus attention on enhancing the current community college DOE program. Presently, most of the effort is focused on recruiting high performing community college students for fully paid summer internships at selected DOE labs. New efforts will center on expanding the effort to pair faculty and student attendance in order to stimulate research projects that can continue back in the campus setting. Unfortunately, the FY03 Energy budget received only a modest boost in education funding, and the looming budget deficit does not augur well for enhancing the program in the near future.

4. Four colleges were selected from 75 applicants to receive the AACC/DOL Workforce Development Award. Winners received a plaque and a $10,000 cash award at the 10th annual Workforce Development Institute in San Diego. Additionally, the colleges will present their award-winning programs at the annual AACC Convention in Dallas, TX. The award-winning colleges were Cuyahoga Community College, OH; Meridian Community College, MS; Riverland Community College, MN; and St. Louis Community College, MO. Oakland Community College, MI received an honorable mention.

5. AACC staff members have been meeting with NASA administrators to lay the groundwork for an MOU between NASA and AACC. Initial attention has been focused on finding ways to use community colleges to transmit the commercial usage of NASA-sponsored imaging technology to the local business community. Other areas of collaboration will be explored at future meetings.

6. Activities are ongoing to implement two Office of Vocational and Adult Education (ED)–sponsored grants that involve AACC as a partnering organization. AACC is partnering with the League for Innovation in its role as the lead organization on the College and Career Transition Initiative (CCTI). Evaluators are now rating the responses to an RFP to select 10 college partners to serve as models for best practices in successful transitions from secondary to postsecondary schools and subsequent successful transitions from postsecondary to employment (or further education) in selected high growth career clusters. Announcement of the partners will take place in early May. AACC's role will be to concentrate on policy issues embedded in some of the occupational areas that are the focus of the grant. The second grant is a research grant involving WESTAT and the Academy for Education Development to examine the labor market responsiveness of community colleges.

7. AACC sponsored meetings with the boards of both the National Council of Workforce Education (NCWE) and the National Council of Continuing Education and Training (NCCET) to stimulate collaborative follow-up activities on the AACC Board-passed policy on credentialing. Both councils selected individuals to attend a working session at WDI. The working session set strategy and timing for credentialing follow-up activities. Their plan will be reported to the Workforce Commission at the April convention in Dallas. NCCET and NCWE will sponsor a follow-up invitational colloquium in Milwaukee on May 29-31, 2003, on the topic of transcripting learning.

8. The AACC Economic Development Office continues to provide support to develop a positive working relationship between the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and the National Association of State Directors of Technical and Vocational Education (NASDTVE). The three organizations have met to coordinate positions regarding the upcoming reauthorization of both Perkins and WIA. In addition, the CEOs of AACC and ACTE have met to discuss expanding the areas of coordination beyond political positions.

9. Meetings with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) concerning collaboration on lead paint safety training are continuing. A Memorandum of Understanding between AACC and HUD is being discussed concerning training in the "Healthy Homes" program.

Strategic Action Area V: Connectedness Across AACC Membership

1. In mid-February, institutional membership dues revenue was down about 7 percent from what had been projected, or by about $150,000. In an attempt to reduce this shortfall, the final dues notice was followed by a special recruitment campaign launched by Association CEO George Boggs. Personalized e-mails were followed by phone calls to all colleges that had paid dues in 2002 but had not paid for 2003 – over 90 colleges. Since mid-February, an additional $70,000 has been collected with promises from an additional dozen colleges that could bring the revenues collected to the amount projected.

To date, there are 1,083 colleges that have paid dues for 2003 for a total of $3,247,780, which constitutes over 97 percent of the projected revenue for institutions. Associate memberships (that is, Educational, Individual, Council, and International) lag slightly behind last year at a total of $74,995 collected or about 91 percent of the projected revenue.

2. The new AACC Endowment, initiated with The Founders' Circle campaign this year, exceeded its fundraising goal by more than $40,000, with a total of $145,000 pledged by 57 individuals over five years. A permanent display for AACC headquarters acknowledging Founders' Circle contributors will be ready in early spring.

3. The 2003 AACC Membership Directory is currently in production and should be mailed by April 2003.

4. AACC has a three-step recognition program for newly appointed, first-time CEOs. All receive a congratulatory card with a small gift; they then receive a "welcome" letter that is accompanied by a package containing information about AACC and discount coupons for the Presidents Academy events and the AACC Annual Convention; and finally, they receive a special invitation for the pre-convention workshop, "Hit the Ground Leading: A Crash Course for First-Time CEOs." This year, this pre-convention workshop, coordinated by Dan Moriarty, is being sponsored by SCT, and has been expanded to 1 ½ days.

5. AACC is at 40 percent of its goal for the Corporate Program for 2003. Fifteen corporations have joined at the Associate, Advocate, or Partner level, contributing $153,725 to date.

6. Both as a prospective revenue source and as a key component of AACC's focus on the leadership issue, staff continue efforts to identify a partner to develop an executive search service for positions below the college CEO level. Several search firms were found not to be acceptable because ACCT objected to any AACC partnership with a firm that also conducted CEO searches. Initial conversations with Performance Executive Search (PES), a Florida-based firm with more than 20 years' experience, have been positive. Next steps include a meeting with the company's principals during the AACC Convention in Dallas, a site visit planned for April 30, and a request for a proposal from PES for how an AACC "branded" search service might be configured.

7. More than 4,000 copies of *A Practical Guide for Integrating Civic Responsibility into the Curriculum* have been distributed and sold since its release late in 2002. The book defines civic responsibility as active participation in the public life of a community in an informed, committed, and constructive manner, with a focus on the common good. It is available on the AACC Web site.

Strategic Action Area VI: International and Intercultural Education

1. The spring international student recruitment trip to Asia was postponed to July 9-23, due to the uncertain nature of world events and economic concerns. AACC continues to receive accolades for its international initiatives but also is being urged to expand recruitment efforts to Latin America and Europe and to give more lead time to colleges for planning and budgeting purposes. This feedback has prompted AACC to develop a long-range plan and identify dates and locations for 2003 and 2004: Asia (July 2003), Latin America (November 2003), Asia (March 2004) and Europe (November 2004).

2. The 40 contributing colleges on the AACC International Web site (www.cc-usa.org) will participate in an on-line (virtual) fair in late April in Istanbul (Turkey) and early May in Dubai (UAE). These fairs will give students an opportunity to select a college from the Web site and chat with a college representative in real time. This reasonably-priced site is an excellent vehicle to recruit international students, yet colleges are not yet recognizing its potential and tremendous advantages. As a result, there will be a special exhibit booth at the AACC Convention to showcase and market the Web site—which is designed to alert international students to the advantages of community colleges.

3. The AACC initiative with the Peace Corps will be announced during the opening session in Dallas. This new partnership will result in opportunities for community colleges to educate Peace Corps host country staff and ministries about the high quality of community college programs, strategically targeted and stronger recruitment efforts on campuses relevant to Peace Corps' program areas, new academic programs to provide community college graduates with opportunities to serve in the Peace Corps and earn a Bachelor's degree, and some integration of Peace Corps' cross-cultural materials into community college course work, as appropriate. The Peace Corps will have a booth at Convention to publicize this program. In addition, Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez will be honored at the Convention as one of six outstanding community college alumni.

4. AACC is entering into a subcontract arrangement with the Academy for Educational Development (AED) for the Open World Program funded by the Center for Russian Leadership Development at the Library of Congress. AACC's role will be to help market the program and identify community colleges to host Russian delegations (4-5 persons) with interests in the areas of education reform, economic development, environment, youth issues, health, women as leaders, rule of law, and federalism. Each delegation will spend a week on a campus between May-December 2003. College responsibilities include working with local organizations to put together a professional and cultural program, arranging home-stays, providing local transportation, and hiring interpreters. Local hosting organizations will receive a budget of $4,500 to cover direct local expenses plus a $2,500 administrative fee.

5. Plans for the China-U.S. Conference on Community Colleges in Beijing, June 24-27, 2003, are progressing well. Approximately 100 attendees will participate from the U.S. with a similar number from China. Papers are still being accepted in the areas of economic development; technology transformation; community building; and college governance, policies, organization and accreditation. The conference will also identify Chinese institutional partnerships for participating U.S. colleges.

6. The international track at the AACC Convention will include sessions on SEVIS, student recruitment, Fulbright opportunities, development of community colleges in Thailand, and exchanges with China.

7. The AACC seminar with The College Board on international recruitment for two-year institutions held in late February was very successful. The seminar, hosted by South Seattle Community College, was designed to provide basic preparation for two-year institution personnel to learn about the "how and why" of international student recruitment. Over 50 college representatives participated.

8. AACC, in collaboration with the British Council and the Learning and Skills Development Agency, has reached an agreement to co-develop an international component to the Future Leaders Institute. A forum on this topic will be delivered at the AACC Convention in Dallas to be followed by a final planning meeting. A finished product is anticipated for the first Institute being held in Pittsburgh this July.

9. Progress continues on the MOU for community college collaboration between the U.S. and Denmark (DK). The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, has funded an effort by CompTIA (Computing Technology Industry Association) to benchmark information technology standards across the 50 states and Denmark. By extension, these standards will reflect those being developed throughout the European Union and, therefore, will contribute to the development of the IT (information technology) workforce globally.

AACC's efforts were central to the funding and implementation of this key project that will develop a more rigorous understanding of existing IT assessments and certifications and their use in secondary and postsecondary education to address IT skills needs in the United States and E.U. countries.

AACC is also an integral member of CompTIA's Workforce Investment Advisory Board (WIAB), which is a forum for industry, education and government working to provide the IT industry with the information, tools and resources necessary to be successful in the recruitment, training, certification and retention of IT workers worldwide. AACC was invited to be part of the WIAB, because of its broad representation of community colleges, which are critical providers of the IT workforce supply chain.

10. AACC and the Bundesinstitut Fur Berufsbildurng (BIBB)—(German Federal Institute for Vocational Training) were scheduled to sign an MOU on February 19, 2003—a signing that was postponed to May 12 due to a major snowstorm in Washington. The BIBB and AACC plan to cooperate in the field of vocational education research and training with a major initial focus on ICT benchmarking. We hope to articulate the BIBB efforts with those taking place as a result of the U.S./DK effort which began last year. CompTIA, with a major grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, is already working on creating apprenticeship programs around ICT skills. CompTIA will collaborate with AACC to extend this effort into the AACC/BIBB MOU.

11. In a recent trip to the United Arab Emirates, AACC President George Boggs toured some of the campuses that make up the Higher Colleges of Technology and met with students. An added benefit of the trip came when Chancellor Horton agreed that all 18 of the UAE colleges should become AACC members.

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